

**Ways & Means Committee
Public Works, Capital Projects & Transportation Committee
Special Joint Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: October 29, 2025 – 4:00 PM
LOCATION: Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building
PRESIDING OFFICERS: Chair Gavaris and Chair Nolan
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder, Legislative Financial Analyst
Tyron Rogers, Technical Support Specialist
Michael Tierney, Legislative Support Specialist
MEMBERS PRESENT: Legislators Criswell, Collins, Hansut, Kovacs, Roberts, Donaldson, Litts
MEMBERS ABSENT: Legislators Uchitelle & McCollough
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Deputy County Executive Jamie Capuano, Deputy County Executive Amanda LaValle, Comptroller March Gallagher, Deputy Comptroller Charles Dinstuhl, Budget Director Ken Juras, Deputy Budget Director Don Quesnell, Deputy Budget Director Victoria Reid, DPW Commissioner Brendan Masterson, DPW Deputy Commissioner Robert Parete, DPW Deputy Director Dean Rylewicz, UCAT Director Toni Roser, Director Dennis Doyle, IS Director Alan Macaluso, Deputy Finance Commissioner Max Cordella, SUNY Ulster President Alison Buckley, SUNY Ulster Vice President for Administration & Finance Michael Schreiber, Steve Ellman

Chair Gavaris and Chair Nolan called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Complete content of the meeting can be accessed via the Ulster County Legislature's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>

Budget Director Juras and Deputy Director Quesnell shared with the Committees the formatting changes of the Capital Improvement Program from last year.

The Committee discussed the details of the 2026-2031 County Executive Recommended Capital Improvement Program including:

SUNY – Site Work Improvements (Page 47)

- Discussion of the College's Capital improvements revolved around the Facilities Master Plan not being provided, limiting the ability of the Capital Improvement Program to include their proposed projects beyond 2028. Some projects, such as the exterior doors as well as water and utility line upgrades were not included.

ARPA – Solar and EV Charging Infrastructure (Page 52)

- Members of the two Committees inquired on how projects were on pace for completion before the 2026 sunset of ARPA funds. Staff stated that they are on track but have developed contingencies in case there are issues that arise.

DPW – Boiceville Substation Improvement (Page 56)

- Minority Leader Roberts questioned the feasibility of the completion of this project in 2026 as stated in the CIP. DPW staff stated that this is slated for completion in 2027 and will be corrected.

DPW – EV Charging Stations (Page 73)

- Discussion of EV charging station was based on the capacity of the vendor to do them concurrently rather than in sequence and public access to chargers.

DPW – Historic Preservation of County Facilities (Page 88)

- Chair Gavaris inquired what the purpose of the inclusion of this in the plan was if there is no project number. Deputy Executive LaValle stated that its inclusion is necessary for seeking state grant funds,

DPW – HVAC/Weatherization Various Buildings (Page 92)

- Chair Gavaris inquired if cooling towers would be replaced with geothermal heating. Only 368 Broadway will have geothermal heating.

DPW – Ulster County Morgue (Page 110)

- Conversation ensued regarding the costs associated with constructing a new building or finding an existing commercial space suitable for a county morgue. Chair Gavaris asked how much the \$500,000 would cover. Deputy Commissioner Parete stated it was or design only.

DPW – Phoenicia Bridge Replacement (BIN#3347800) (Page 220)

- Chair Gavaris inquired why the cost of this project has risen by \$15million. Executive staff stated this was due to engineering changes made following the hydraulic study that recommended extensive changes to address the flooding partially caused by the existing bridge. Discussion ensued about how a bridge can effect flooding.

UCAT – Bus Shelters (Page 256)

- The Committees expressed frustration that this project has not moved further along since last year, and asked that the request be expanded beyond unwilling municipalities to community and philanthropic groups that may be interested in an “adopt a bus shelter” program. Executive staff said they are looking into that.

Following the review of the 2026-2031 County Executive Recommended Capital Improvement Program, Chair Gavaris recognized Planning Director Doyle, who stated that the County Planning Board is in receipt of this program and will offer their comments to the Legislature by the end of November.

Adjournment:

Motion By: Legislator Litts
Seconded By: Legislator Collins

TIME: 5:41 PM

Respectfully Submitted By: Natalie Kelder, Legislative Financial Analyst
Prepared By: Michael Tierney, Legislative Services Specialist
Approved By Public Works Committee: November 10, 2025
Approved By Ways & Means Committee: November 13, 2025